



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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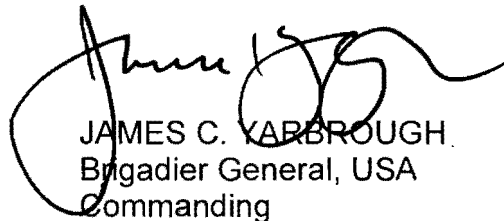
OCT 27 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Veterans Day Safety Message 2010

1. Formerly called Armistice Day, Veterans Day is a celebration to honor America's veterans of all wars for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. It is also the beginning of the holiday winter season, a time when our Soldiers and Families face the increased risk with traveling or the stress associated from being away from home and loved ones.
2. The Louisiana State University Highway Safety Group reports that in 2009, an accident occurred every three minutes in Louisiana and half of all the fatal accidents occurred on state roads. Last year over the Veterans Day holiday weekend, the Army had one accident resulting in one fatality. Although one loss is too many, I attribute this low number to Soldier and leader vigilance and Soldiers taking care of Soldiers. Fort Polk cannot boast a fatality-free fiscal year for 2010 as we lost two of our own in traffic accidents so I need you all to remain vigilant and adhere to safe driving practices.
3. Employ risk management in your everyday plans and give yourself extra time when traveling. Always wear your seat belt and follow the speed limit. Do not drink and drive. Soldiers, keep your chain of command informed of changes to your plans. Emphasize safety during all counselings, whether it is formal or informal, and use Pine Tree Counseling; don't be afraid to ask the hard questions.
4. The safety of our JRTC and Fort Polk Family is my highest priority. Soldiers adhere to the standards and do not take unnecessary risks. Leaders continue to be involved. **Stop, think, observe, plan, and proceed** safely, and continue to use the JRTC road hazards map and website <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>. Have a safe and accident-free holiday.

*Leaders -
Get our Soldiers
back home safe.*


JAMES C. YARBROUGH
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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